

IN THE CLAIMS

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the inulin is chicory inulin with an average degree of polymerization (\overline{DP}) of at least 20.

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 18, wherein the inulin is chicory inulin with an average degree of polymerization (\overline{DP}) of at least 25.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of systemic infections in humans or vertebrates comprising:

administering, to humans or vertebrates having a systemic infection caused by an invasion of the blood stream by *Listeria* or *Salmonella*, a dietary fiber composition comprising

an ~~active ingredient consisting of an~~ effective amount of inulin as a single active ingredient for treating systemic infections; and

one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients,

wherein the composition is administered orally or through tube feeding.

21-22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the human or vertebrate is an adult human and the amount of inulin administered to the adult human ranges from 5 to 40 g/day.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the human or vertebrate is an adult human and the amount of inulin administered to the adult human ranges from 5 to 25 g/day.

25-26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of an infection occupying the lymph or blood in humans or vertebrates comprising:

administering, to humans or vertebrates having an infection caused by *Listeria* or *Salmonella* in the lymph or blood, a dietary fiber composition comprising

an ~~active ingredient consisting of an~~ effective amount of inulin as a single active ingredient for treating systemic infections; and

one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients,

wherein the composition is administered orally or through tube feeding.

28-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 27, wherein the inulin is chicory inulin with an average degree of polymerization (\overline{DP}) of at least 20.

31. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 27, wherein the inulin is chicory inulin with an average degree of polymerization (\overline{DP}) of at least 25.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein the human or vertebrate is an adult human and the amount of inulin administered to the adult human ranges from 5 to 40 g/day.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein the human or vertebrate is an adult human and the amount of inulin administered to the adult human ranges from 5 to 25 g/day.

35-36. (Canceled)

37. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of systemic infections in humans or vertebrates, comprising

administering, to humans or vertebrates having a systemic infection caused by an invasion of the blood stream by *Listeria* or *Salmonella*, a functional food composition comprising, an ~~active ingredient consisting of an~~ effective amount of inulin as single active ingredient for treating systemic infections, wherein the food composition is administered orally or through tube feeding.

38-40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20, wherein the human or vertebrate is a vertebrate and wherein the inulin is chicory inulin with an average degree of polymerization $\overline{(DP)}$ of at least 20.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the inulin is chicory inulin with an average degree of polymerization $\overline{(DP)}$ of at least 25.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein the human or vertebrate is a vertebrate and wherein the inulin is chicory inulin with an average degree of polymerization $\overline{(DP)}$ of at least 20.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 27, wherein the inulin is chicory inulin with an average degree of polymerization $\overline{(DP)}$ of at least 25.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 37, wherein the human or vertebrate is a vertebrate and wherein the inulin is chicory inulin with an average degree of polymerization $\overline{(DP)}$ of at least 20.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 37, wherein the inulin is chicory inulin with an average degree of polymerization $\overline{(DP)}$ of at least 25.